



Record of Determination for a Temporary Public Closures of Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, a section of Memorial Avenue, and the Entrance Road to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to Vehicular Traffic on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 due to the Independence Day Fireworks Display

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.5(a), Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, and a section of Memorial Avenue, administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), will be closed to vehicular traffic on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 between 6:00 AM and 11:59 PM. Memorial Avenue will be closed from the inbound ramp of Route 110 ramp to Memorial Circle. The Entrance Road to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial will be closed to vehicular traffic on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 between 2:00 PM and 11:59 PM. These roadways will only be open to support staff, including emergency personnel, participating in Independence Day fireworks display under NPS Permit #12-1130.

The temporary closure to vehicular traffic is necessary to protect visitor safety as an anticipated 500,000 visitors during the day will be gathering on GWMP land or passing through to Washington, D.C. to watch the Independence Day fireworks display on the National Mall. The U.S. Park Police will establish security check points at the start of Arlington Memorial Bridge and on Arlington Ridge to control access and security to these locations. Less restrictive measures will not suffice because the 500,000 visitors will be on sidewalks along Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, and Arlington Ridge throughout the day. U.S. Park Police, National Park Service, and other support personnel must have these roadways clear to transport equipment and staff and to respond to emergencies and security issues quickly.

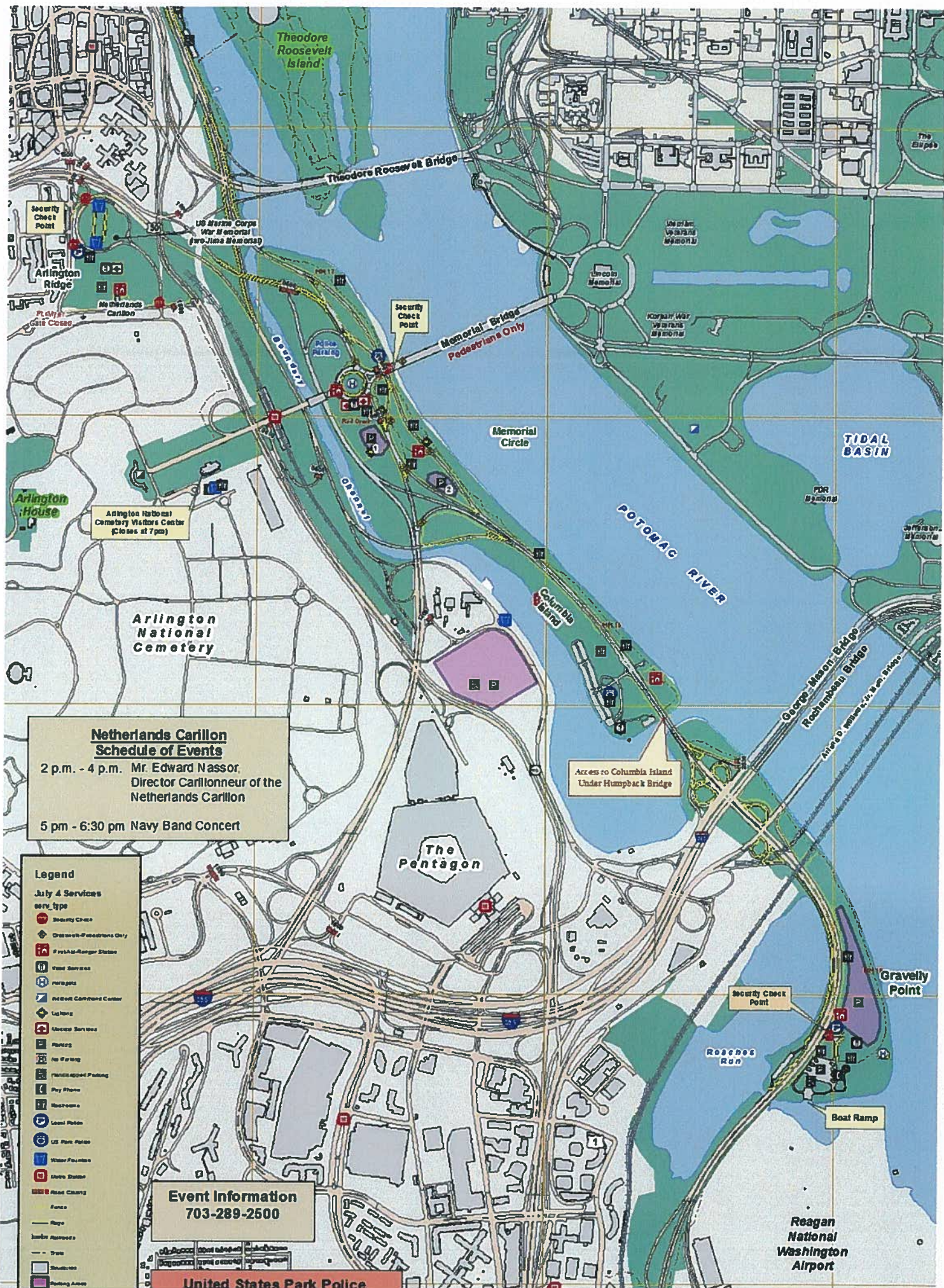
The temporary public closures will occur from Wednesday, July 4, 2012 between 6:00 AM and 11:59 PM and are part of a long-standing annually recurring one-day fireworks display that has used these park areas before. It is therefore not of a nature, magnitude, or duration that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of these park areas. The closures neither constitute an impairment to park resources and values, nor adversely affect the park's natural, aesthetic or cultural values. Furthermore, the closures are not controversial in nature, given that vehicle access and public transportation to Washington, D.C., Arlington, Virginia, and Arlington National Cemetery will remain open through various other routes and means of transportation.

Accordingly, pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.5(b), publication as rulemaking in the Federal Register is unnecessary and unwarranted. This is consistent with hundreds of past partial and temporary park closures or public use limitations, the legal opinion of the Office of the Solicitor, and past judicial adjudications. *Mahoney v. Norton*, No. 02-1715 (D.D.C. August 29, 2002), plaintiffs' emergency motion for injunction pending appeal denied *Mahoney v. Norton*, No. 02-5275 (D.C. Cir. September 9, 2002) (per curiam); *Picciotto v. United States*, No. 99-2113 (D.D.C. August 6, 1999); *Picciotto v. United States*, No. 94-1935 (D.D.C. September 9, 1994); *Picciotto v. Lujan*, No. 90-1261 (D.D.C. May 30, 1990); *Picciotto v. Hodel*, No. 87-3290 (D.D.C. January 26, 1988).

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.7, notice of the closure will be made by holding a press conference at the Netherlands Carillon on July 2, 2012, issuing press releases, posting information on the NPS website and social media outlets, posting variable message boards, fencing, and by park staff direction. Violation is prohibited.

Jon G. James
Acting Superintendent
George Washington Memorial Parkway

Date



**Netherlands Carillon
Schedule of Events**

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Mr. Edward Nassor,
Director Carillonneur of the
Netherlands Carillon

5 pm - 6:30 pm Navy Band Concert

Legend

July 4 Services

serv. type

Security Check

Crosswalk - Pedestrians Only

Police - Ranger Station

Food Services

Portage

Medical Command Center

Lighting

Medical Services

Restroom

No Parking

Permitted Parking

Pay Phone

Telephone

Local Police

US Park Police

Water Fountain

Utility Station

Rest Chair

Area

Route

Tram

Shuttle

Shuttle

Shuttle

Shuttle

Shuttle

Shuttle

Shuttle

Event Information
703-289-2500

United States Park Police

**Reagan
National
Washington
Airport**